



The NUNES Report

Nunes leads change to Valley task force

A Presidential Executive Order that focuses federal attention on the economically beleaguered Central Valley was made more effective at the request of several Valley members of Congress led by Rep. Devin Nunes.

President Bush recently approved several changes to the order. Rep. Nunes and members of the federal Interagency Task Force will outline those changes and how they will be used in the next two years to leverage federal resources to benefit a seven-county area of the



Rep. Devin Nunes and members of the federal Interagency Task Force discuss recent changes to an Executive Order.

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Quick Facts

In Sept., Rep. Nunes wrote to 1,198 constituents in response to their inquiries.

Year to date, Rep. Nunes has responded to 10,748 constituents via the U.S. Mail. Furthermore, since Rep. Nunes was elected to Congress he has responded to 24,338 constituent letters via the U.S. Mail.

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Nunes applauds passage of water bill

Rep. Devin Nunes hailed the passage of a federal/state water project known as CALFED with its new focus on water storage as a critical step in the right direction to meet the water needs of California for years to come.

“Water storage has been a major focus of my term in office, so I’m pleased this bill does so much to ensure our homes and communities will have the water they need,” said Rep. Nunes, a member of the Resources Committee and co-sponsor of the bill. “Our ability to capture and utilize water has not kept up with the needs

of our booming population and growing industrial centers. I think this bill does an excellent job of balancing the demands on water between domestic use, agriculture, and the environment.”

The CALFED bill establishes a “trigger” mechanism for the implementation of storage projects. Once a project feasibility study is completed, the Congress must authorize the project. If it does not, the Secretary of the Interior must declare an “imbalance” in the CALFED program and outline what must be done to increase storage to achieve

balance. It also includes \$90 million for pre-authorized levees and levee stability projects; more than \$180 million for pre-authorized water quality improvement projects throughout California, including drinking water; \$90 million for Fish and Wildlife enhancements.

“This legislation represents a paradigm shift in our water policy by making storage the lynchpin of the entire CALFED program,” Resources Committee Chairman Richard Pombo said.

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**Seal of the
Military Academy
at West Point**



**Seal of the
U.S. Naval Academy
at Annapolis**



**Seal of the
U.S. Merchant Marine
Academy at
Kings Point, New York**



**Seal of the
U.S. Air Force
Academy at
Colorado Springs**

Nunes holds Academy Night for potential cadets

In September, Rep. Devin Nunes hosted Academy Night for high school students interested in attending one of four U.S. Service Academies.

The open-house meeting was Sept. 27 in the Tulare County Board of Supervisors chamber, 2800 W. Burrell Avenue in Visalia.

The event featured representatives from each of the academies. Potential cadets and their parents heard a keynote address from Brigadier General Ed Munger (ret), who lives in Fresno County.

“The education and military experience the service academies provide is second to none. They consistently produce men and



Rep. Devin Nunes (third from the left) poses with representatives from the four service academies and retired Brigadier General Ed Munger (center).

women who are on track to be our nation’s next generation of great leaders,” the congressman said. “I know there are plenty of students

here in the Central Valley who deserve such an important opportunity.”

Nunes seeks citrus quarantine lift with Korea

In an attempt to prevent the escalation of a trade dispute, Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Tulare, has requested a meeting with the Korean Ambassador to discuss California orange exports.

Korea is the number one export market for oranges from California, taking in more than 7 million cartons last year with a value of about \$80 million.

In April, the Korean National Plant Quarantine Service banned the importation of oranges from Fresno and Tulare counties because inspectors in that country supposedly detected a fungus called *Septoria citri*.

“Our own tests of the same fruit showed no evidence of the fungus,” Rep. Nunes said. “Nevertheless, our growers and federal officials have come up with a



stringent, scientifically-sound protocol that will ensure no infected fruit reaches Korea. We have every confidence that our oranges meet and surpass any standards they might expect.”

Nevertheless, the Korean government has not agreed to the protocol or lifted the quarantine. Navel oranges were harvested in October.

Other California members of Congress are joining Rep. Nunes in a letter urging the ambassador to intervene in the situation.

“The trading and busi-

ness relationship between our two countries has grown significantly over the years to the mutual benefit of both the Korean and American peoples. As Californians, we are pleased with the growth in our export of healthy, high quality fresh California oranges to the Korean market and your consumers,” the letter says. “We believe the USDA proposed protocol for mitigation of Korean concerns to have thoroughly and scientifically addressed this matter. Therefore, we urge you to encourage the Korean government to accept this protocol, remove the quarantine against citrus from those production areas of our state and favorably remedy this trade matter.”

Visalia veteran gets medals he earned 60 years ago

Rep. Devin Nunes presented four service medals, including the Distinguished Flying Cross, to Visalian and World War II veteran Wayne Houser in an informal ceremony.

Houser sought the congressman's help to obtain medals he earned 60 years ago as an Army Sergeant in Italy. Houser, 83, said he wanted to get the medals to pass down to his children.

In all, Houser is trying to get seven medals he earned—three of which (WWII Victory Medal, Air Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal with Army Loops) are still on order with the National Personnel Records Center. Among those he will receive Wednesday are the Distinguished Flying Cross, a Purple Heart from flak wounds while on a mission over Austria, WWII Service Lapel Button and the European-

Africa-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal.

From the time he took office in January 2003, Rep. Devin Nunes has helped more than two dozen veterans in Fresno and Tulare counties get more than 40 medals they earned during their service in the military.

"Like Mr. Houser, there are thousands of veterans in the 21st Congressional District whose life stories remind us of the supreme effort and sacrifice our women and men in the military make on our behalf. Their stories are inspirational," Rep. Nunes said. "That is why early next year I will hold an event specifically aimed at compiling the personal tales of veterans who now live in the Central Valley."

The effort will be part of the national Veterans History Project, sponsored by the Library of Congress.



Visalian Wayne Houser and his family members pose with Rep. Devin Nunes. The congressman helped Mr. Houser obtain seven medals he earned during World War II. He received four Oct. 20 and the rest are on order with the military.

Dozens of volunteers will sit down one-on-one with veterans to record their personal stories. Those interviews, along with photographs, correspondence, and other memorabilia, will be sent to the Library of

Congress, and in some cases posted online for everyone to see. More details will be announced later.

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Central Valley in a press conference.

In addition, details of a groundbreaking federal study already underway will also be discussed. The study—initiated at the request of Reps. Nunes — compares the Central Valley to other economically depressed regions in the nation, including how federal resources are used in each. Rep. Nunes and five other members of Congress (Reps. Thomas, Pombo, Radanovich, Dooley and Cardoza) believe the study could show that the Central Valley is not getting its fair share of assistance from the federal gov-

ernment.

Both the Executive Order and Congressional Research Study could prove instrumental to the Regional Jobs Initiative, which can use the federal leverage and supporting data to seek assistance.

Members of the federal Interagency Task Force—including HUD Regional Director Dick Rainey, members of the Regional Jobs Initiative and representatives of several congressional offices were in attendance, along with Rep. Devin Nunes.

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"The success of all CALFED program elements depends upon expanded and better managed storage, and this bill establishes a framework around that very fact."

According to the California Farm Water Coalition, the Golden States' agricultural exports are valued at nearly \$7 billion. Each \$1 billion in agricultural exports creates 27,000 jobs. That is 8.9 percent of all the jobs in the state. Additional storage gives the state more flexibility and financial relief in times of draught. Without increased storage, rate payers will continue to be subject to price spikes during

times of shortage.

"Congressman Nunes deserves a great deal of credit for the success we have today in securing water storage for California," Chairman Pombo said.

"By introducing his pre-authorization language to the CALFED debate, Devin helped focus the legislative effort on the importance of storage in a balanced program. As a result, we passed a landmark bill today that makes water storage the lynchpin of the entire comprehensive plan. I thank him for his dedication to this issue. It could not have been done without him."

Visalia student serves as House page

By Peter Vlazakis
Visalia

I had the unique opportunity this summer to serve as a page in the House of Representatives. It was a life-changing event.

The U.S. House of Representatives Page Program is one of the longest programs in the U.S. Congress. Pages are hired as employees of the House of Representatives and live, eat and work on Capitol Hill.

While working, pages get an unparalleled view of the way government works – a view that is rarely seen outside of the Capitol walls. Pages are high school juniors or seniors who have been sponsored by a member of Congress and have been selected by the Office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Pages come from diverse backgrounds and represent all 50 states. Their primary function is to deliver correspondence and timely messages among Congress members and between administrative staff and members within the congressional office buildings. Their work is invaluable, and they are highly visible in the congressional complex. The long history of the page program has made it an integral part of daily life on Capitol Hill.

My particular assignment was the Republican cloakroom. The cloakroom is adjacent to the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives and serves as both a lounge for Congress members and a place for them to make and receive phone calls. Of the approximately 66 pages, six of us were given this assign-

ment for the entire summer, and I quickly learned why. Our main job was to answer the phones and deliver messages to members while they were on the floor. However, in order to deliver messages, we first had to memorize the names and faces of all 229 Republican representatives. Even then, to find one particular Congress member in a room full of them was extremely difficult, because they never stop moving.

The cloakroom is also the unofficial information center in the Capitol, and most of our time was spent answering Congress members' and staff's questions about the schedule for the day and about the legislation that was to be discussed. Normally my workday started at 9 a.m. and ended around 8 p.m. Because of my particular assignment in the cloakroom, this actually depended on the time the House went out of session.

I recall at least two occasions that we were on the floor until well past midnight.

In addition to watching legislation being debated and voted on each day, I also had the chance to witness two historic events this summer – the state funeral of former President Ronald Reagan and the address of President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan to a joint session of Congress.

The pages were given the opportunity to have a private viewing of President Reagan's casket as it lay in state in the Capitol Rotunda, and the six cloakroom pages were able to watch the dress rehearsal of the funeral from the balcony of the Speaker



Rep. Devin Nunes stands on the Capitol steps with Peter Vlazakis, who served as a page in the House of Representative during the summer.

of the House's office in the front of the Capitol. Also, the pages were able to sign the book that was presented to the Reagan family by the U.S. Congress.

Secondly, to be in the House chamber during a joint session of Congress for a speech by such a symbolically important figure in the world today was a remarkable opportunity.

I would like to thank Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Visalia, for sponsoring me, as well as members of my community who have always encouraged me in my endeavors.

My summer in Washington has left me with a lifetime of experiences and has broadened my outlook of our democratic system. Being a page gives you the opportunity to witness democracy in its truest sense.